



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: G/SO CED-UA IRQ (494)  
AB/OL/mg 1001/2020

23 December 2020

Dear Ms. Hussein,

I have the honour to acknowledge your request for urgent action under article 30 of the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance submitted to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on 12 December 2020, with regard to the alleged enforced disappearance of **Mr. Sherwan Taha Ameen**.

Your request was registered on 23 December 2020 by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, in compliance with article 30 of the Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance under the reference number **UA No. 1001/2020**.

In view of the information provided, the Committee sent a note verbale to the State party on 23 December 2020 requesting its immediate urgent action in compliance with article 30 of the Convention, in the following terms:

“The Secretary General of the United Nations (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva and has the honour to transmit herewith the request for Urgent Action of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, in compliance with article 30 of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance, with regard to the alleged enforced disappearance of **Mr. Sherwan Taha Ameen**, on 5 September 2020. This request for Urgent Action has been registered by the Committee under the reference number **UA No. 1001/2020**.

The following information has been provided to the Committee and is communicated to the State party to facilitate the search for Mr. Sherwan Ameen, and his location:

**Full name in English:** Sherwan Taha Ameen

**Date and place of birth:** 22 June 1986, Iraq

**Mother's name:** Nahidah Yahya

**Usual address of the alleged victim:** Duhok, Iraq

**ID card:** National Passport No. A12433650 (copy hereby attached)

**Marital status:** married with 2 children

**Date of disappearance:** 5 September 2020

The Committee was informed that, in the evening of 5 September 2020, while Mr. Sherwan Ameen was admitted to a hospital in Duhok, he received a phone call from Asayish officers, who were inquiring about his location. Soon thereafter, Asayish officers came to the hospital and took Mr. Sherwan Ameen with them to an unknown location, allegedly to question him. Since then, there is no information as to Mr. Sherwan Ameen's fate and whereabouts.

On 6 September 2020, the family of Mr. Sherwan Ameen inquired about his fate and whereabouts with the Police Station of Duhok, but were informed by police officers that they had no information in that respect. The family was directed to inquire with the Asayish. However, the family of Mr. Sherwan Ameen was not able to contact Asayish to inquire about his fate and whereabouts for fear of harassment and retaliation.

On 19 October 2020, the Judicial Council of Erbil issued a document stating that Mr. Sherwan Taha Ameen was a prisoner of Asayish (copy attached). However, neither his family or relatives, nor his counsel or any other person of his choice was allowed to have contact with him.

In view of the urgency and seriousness of the situation, the Committee requests the State party to take immediate action to search for, locate and protect Mr. Sherwan Taha Ameen, in compliance with article 30 of the Convention. In this perspective, the Committee requests the State party:

- **To take all the necessary measures to search for, locate and protect Mr. Sherwan Taha Ameen, including through the establishment and implementation of a comprehensive strategy of search and investigation of his disappearance. Such strategy should include an action plan and a timeline, which should be periodically reviewed, in compliance with article 12 and 24 of the Convention, and with Principle 8 of the Guiding Principles for the Search for Disappeared Persons.**
- **In case the location of Mr. Sherwan Taha Ameen can be confirmed, the Committee requests the State party to put him immediately under the protection of the law, to officially inform the Committee, as well as the family, relatives and representatives of Mr. Sherwan Taha Ameen as to his whereabouts, and to take all the actions necessary to enable his immediate contact with his family, relatives, counsel or any other person of his choice. In case Mr. Sherwan Taha Ameen is in a place of detention, to officially inform about his detention and to enable periodic visits, in compliance with article 17 of the Convention.**
- **In case the location of Mr. Sherwan Taha Ameen cannot be confirmed, to take immediate action to locate him, to clarify his alleged enforced disappearance, and to guarantee his placement under the protection of the law.**
- **In compliance with State party's obligations under articles 12 and 24 of the Convention, the State party is also requested to take all measures that are**



**necessary to identify the perpetrators of the alleged enforced disappearance of Mr. Sherwan Taha Ameen, taking into account that the identification of the perpetrator(s) can result paramount for the search and location of the disappeared person.**

- **To provide the Committee with information as to the measures taken to implement each of these recommendations, and about the result of these actions.**

In compliance with article 30(3) of the Convention, the Committee requests the State party to send information on these issues, by **22 January 2021**. The information submitted by the State party will be transmitted to the authors of the referred request for urgent action for their comments.

The Committee also draws the attention of the State party to article 30(4) of the Convention, according to which “the Committee shall continue its efforts to work with the State party concerned for as long as the fate of the person sought remains unresolved”.

The State party’s observations will be sent to you upon receipt, for your comments. In the meantime, the Committee remains pending of any additional information you may wish to provide with regard to the referred Urgent Action.

Sincerely,

Ibrahim Salama  
Chief  
Human Rights Treaties Branch

Ms. Jwan Hussein  
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